

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/986,538

Examiner

Susan T. Tran

Applicant(s)

OSUMI ET AL.

Art Unit

1615

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment filed 05/17/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3 and 6-23.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 09 November 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 6/03/04
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 05/17/04.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

THURMAN K. PAGE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1600

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with J. Derek Mason on 05/17/04.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the specification:

Page 4, line 9, the word "havint" has been amended to "having".

In the claims:

Claim 1, line 1, the transitional phrase "comprising" has been amended to "consisting essentially of".

Claim 1, line 2, after the phrase "having salts thereof", the phrase --"selected from the group consisting of (a) homopolymers of a vinyl having a (meth)acryloyl skeleton or styrene skeleton and a sulfonic, group, or a salt thereof, (b) copolymers of a vinyl having a (meth)acryloyl skeleton or styrene skeleton and a sulfonic, group, or a salt thereof with a monomer copolymerizable therewith, (c) polysaccharides having a sulfonic group or a salt thereof, and (d) homopolymers of vinylsulfonic acid, allylsulfonic acid or a salt thereof, or copolymers of such a monomer with a monomer copolymerizable therewith"-- has been inserted.

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Claim 1, line 5, after the phrase “a nonionic polymer (B)”, the phrase --“selected from the group consisting of (e) homopolymers of a vinyl monomer having an amide group, (f) copolymers of a vinyl monomer having an amide group with a monomer copolymerizable therewith; and (g) polyethylene glycol, polypropylene glycol, polyglycerol, polyvinyl alcohol, pullulan, guar gum and hydroxyethyl cellulose” -- has been inserted.

Claims 4 and 5 have been cancelled.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The reason for allowance of the claims is the incorporation of 1) the transitional phrase “consisting essentially of”, 2) the exclusion of AMPS as polymer (A), and 3) the Markush group of polymers (A) and (B). The cited reference does not teach the combination of polymers (A) and (B) in the claimed ratios.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

Claims 1-3 and 6-23 are allowed.

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Pertinent Arts

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Ikeda et al., Crotty et al. and Buerger et al. are cited as of interest for the teaching of a keratotic plug composition.

Correspondence

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Susan T. Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-0606. The examiner can normally be reached on M-R from 6:00 am to 4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thurman K. Page, can be reached at (571) 272-0602. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


THURMAN K. PAGE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1600